

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 041543

R 121430Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0344

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GV, FR, UN

SUBJECT: FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS

REF: CONAKRY 1855

1. DECEMBER 11 HAS COME AND GONE WITHOUT RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE. INSTEAD, AFTERNOON DECEMBER 10 FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO AND, LATER, PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE INFORMED ACTING UNDP RESREP DIVJAK THAT COMMUNIQUE COULD NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL AFTER MEETING OF GUINEA'S NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (POLITICAL PARTY'S SECOND HIGHEST BODY) SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 13 TO 15 AND PRESIDENTIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SET FOR DECEMBER 27.

2. POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER TO WHOM I SPOKE INFORMALLY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 11, CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE OR THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS TO HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED THAT DAY. DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER HIS PLEA OF IGNORANCE WAS HONEST OR WHETHER IT WAS MERELY DESIRE TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF ISSUE.

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3. REASON GIVEN FOR POSTPONING RELEASE OF COMMUNIQUE IS HARD TO BELIEVE SINCE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT KNEW OF CNR MEETING AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHEN LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED AND RELEASE DATE AGREED TO BY ALL PARTIES. YET REAL REASON DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE SINCE GUINEA WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN FROM POSTPONEMENT. POSSIBILITIES ARE THAT TIME NEEDED TO IMPROVE HEALTH OR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF SOME PRISONERS BEFORE RELEASE OR THAT SOME UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION MAY HAVE DEVELOPED WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH.

4. PERHAPS IF UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE LEWIN HAD RETURNED WITH APPROVED TEXT, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE TOURE TO GO AHEAD WITH PUBLICATION AS PLANNED. HOWEVER, SINCE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD CONCEDED ON ALL POINTS, LEWIN PROBABLY HAD NO REASON BELIEVE HIS FURTHER PRESENCE WAS NECESSARY OR THAT GUINEA WOULD NOT GO AHEAD WITH RELEASE AS PROMISED. ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HAD UNSYG WALDHEIM SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO TOURE EVENING DECEMBER 10 WHEN HE LEARNED OF GUINEAN CHANGE OF MIND, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE SEKOU TOURE OTHERWISE. HOWEVER, WALDHEIM PREFERRED LEAVE THE MATTER ACTING UNDP RESREP.

5. DIVJAK TRYING TO SEE TOURE AGAIN IN HOPES HE CAN GET AGREEMENT TO ISSUE COMMUNIQUE EARLY NEXT WEEK AFTER CNR MEETINGS BUT WELL BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT OUTCOME OF THESE EFFORTS WILL BE ALTHOUGH RETURN OF PRIMIN BEAVOGUI, WHO HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN PAST, OFFERS RAY OF HOPE.
TODMAN

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